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Letter dated 25 February 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of India and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint statement released by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Minister of External Affairs of India at the meeting held in Delhi on 4 February 2002.

We would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kamalesh **Sharma**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 25 February 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of India and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint statement of the Foreign Ministers of the Russian Federation and of the Republic of India

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. Igor Ivanov, paid an official visit to India on 3 and 4 February 2002. The Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation held discussions with the Minister for External Affairs of the Republic of India, Mr. Jaswant Singh, on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues.

The External Affairs Minister of India and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation reiterated their countries' firm commitment, in accordance with the Moscow Declaration signed in November 2001, to continue close cooperation on the issue of international terrorism. Both sides agreed that international terrorism not only threatens the security of India and Russia, but also poses a serious threat to global peace and security and represents a grave violation of human rights and a crime against humanity. The sides agreed that there is no justification for terrorism, and that it must be fought against without compromise wherever it exists. Russia and India firmly reject any attempts to identify terrorism with any particular religion. Those who seek to do so are as wrong as those who seek to use religion to justify acts of terrorism.

India and Russia affirmed that the international efforts to eradicate Al Qaida and the Taliban movement in Afghanistan are an important element of the common struggle against terrorism and its sponsors everywhere in the world, on the basis of international law. The existence of extensive ties between Al Qaida and Taliban on the one hand and terrorist organizations active in other parts of the world, including Chechnya, the Central Asian Republics and the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, on the other, calls for a campaign against terrorism that involves close cooperation by all members of the international community, and which is comprehensive, long-term, multidimensional and is executed consistently, resolutely, purposefully and without compromise. There is no place for either subjectivity or double standards in the fight against terrorism.

India and the Russian Federation reaffirmed the important role that the United Nations and the international community must play in the international campaign against terrorism. They welcomed Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 and the establishment of a Counter-Terrorism Committee focused on monitoring of the implementation by States of their international obligations in the struggle against terrorism, primarily with a view to reliably curtailing any type of support — moral, material, arms supplies, through propaganda, providing shelter, etc. In that connection, the sides called for early completion of discussions, under United Nations auspices, of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. The adoption of these conventions would greatly contribute to the strengthening of the international legal basis for effectively combating the menace of global terrorism.

During the discussions on the situation in South Asia, the Russian side reiterated its strong condemnation of continued acts of cross-border terrorism against India, including the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament on 13 December 2001. Russia expressed its understanding and support regarding India's justified demands that these activities from Pakistan and territory controlled by it should be completely brought to a halt.

The two Ministers also noted the statement made by the Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf, on 12 January 2002 and Pakistan's recently declared commitment against terrorism. However, this commitment can only be judged by the concrete action it takes on the ground. In this context, the sides emphasized the need for Pakistan to cooperate in stopping the infiltration of terrorists into India, across the international boundary and the Line of Control, and ending the continued terrorist violence in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as in other parts of India. The sides noted that sustained and irreversible steps in that direction would create a conducive environment for the resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

Jaswant **Singh**
Minister for External Affairs
Government of the Republic of India

Igor S. **Ivanov**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation

4 February 2002